

Quarterly Population Report

Fourth Quarter 2015

First net interprovincial migration losses since 2009¹

Population growth was up slightly from the same quarter last year, bolstered by very high numbers of people arriving from outside Canada and the continuing strength of natural increase in this young province. Spurred by the deteriorating economic situation, however, interprovincial migration turned negative this quarter for the first time since 2009.

Alberta's population was an estimated 4,231,959 as of January 1, 2016 (Table 1), an increase of about 15,000 over the quarter. At 0.36%, the province's quarterly growth was twice the national average (0.17%), but this quarter marked the first time since early 2011 that Alberta's growth did not outstrip that of the other provinces. Manitoba had the fastest growth this quarter at 0.41%, followed by Alberta and Saskatchewan (0.32%).

Net international migration was responsible for most of Alberta's fourth quarter expansion, contributing 0.20%. The impact of natural increase was also significant (0.18%), while net outflows to other regions of Canada put

downward pressure on the growth rate, shrinking the province's population by 0.02%.

Year-over-year, Alberta's province-leading rate of 1.74% added over 72,000 new residents; only Ontario added more (Table 2). Despite this notable increase in absolute numbers, the growth was the lowest fourth quarter year-over-year rate since 2011 (Figure 1).

Migration

Migration continues to be sluggish, accounting for only about half of the province's growth in the fourth quarter. Although up slightly from the same period last year, the 7,575 net migrants who arrived this quarter were only about half the 2012 and 2013 levels.

Interprovincial migration

Interprovincial migration continued to weaken this quarter, dipping into negative territory for the first time since the fourth quarter of 2009.

¹ All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007-2016 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.

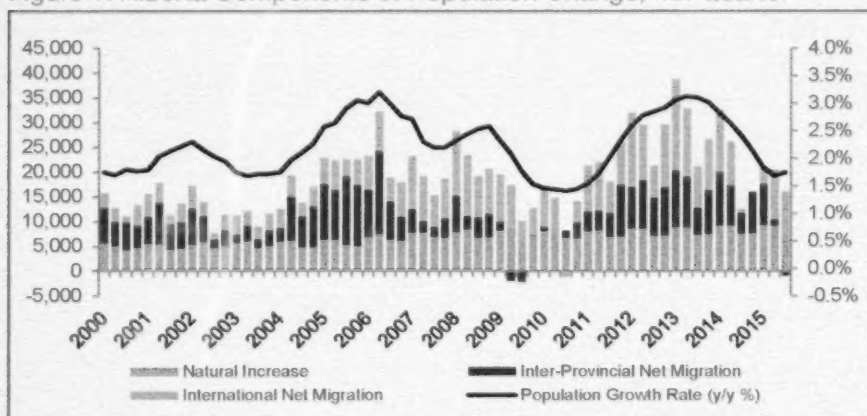
Table 1: Population & Growth Rates, Canada and Alberta

Population			Year over Year Growth Rate		
1-Jan	Canada	Alberta	1-Jan	Canada	Alberta
2011	34,165,913	3,754,621	2011	1.06%	1.41%
2012	34,539,679	3,830,341	2012	1.09%	2.02%
2013	34,938,672	3,939,437	2013	1.16%	2.85%
2014	35,340,422	4,061,774	2014	1.15%	3.11%
2015	35,709,420	4,159,630	2015	1.04%	2.41%
2016	36,048,521	4,231,959	2016	0.95%	1.74%

Table 2: Population of Provinces/Territories

	Population Jan 1, 2016	Growth Rate (y/y)
Canada	36,048,521	0.95%
NL	528,336	-0.07%
PEI	146,933	0.42%
NS	945,824	0.25%
NB	754,735	-0.04%
QC	8,294,656	0.66%
ON	13,873,933	1.01%
MB	1,303,896	1.26%
SK	1,142,570	1.20%
AB	4,231,959	1.74%
BC	4,707,021	0.87%
YT	37,193	0.71%
NWT	44,291	0.28%
NVT	37,174	2.24%

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 4th Quarter



While the net outflow of -977 is only about half of the outflows experienced during the province's last economic downturn, it represents a significant departure from the large net gains of the past several years (Table 4).

British Columbia's net interprovincial gains led the pack again this quarter (3,762), followed by Ontario (951) (Table 3). The fourth quarter marks the second in a row that Ontario has seen net gains from interprovincial migration, reversing an almost unbroken streak of net outflows since the early 2000s.

Alberta's loss contributed to British Columbia's gain for the seventh straight quarter, as 1,640 more people moved to British Columbia from Alberta than the reverse (Map 1). As large provinces, both British Columbia and Ontario have been significant sources of new population for Alberta over the last several years. Last quarter it was noted that net inflows from Ontario were down. The slump continued this quarter as Alberta lost population to Ontario (-327) for the first time since early 2002. Alberta registered very modest net interprovincial gains this quarter from Quebec (396), Saskatchewan (326) and Manitoba (195) (Table 3).

Net International Migration

In spite of the challenges presented by Alberta's current economic downturn, the province continues to be very attractive to immigrants. Although net outflows of non-permanent residents (NPRs) exerted a moderating influence again this quarter, near record immigration levels ensured that international migration was a key driver of growth.

Interprovincial losses were offset by the highest fourth quarter net international gain (8,552) on record. Slightly fewer immigrants arrived in Alberta compared with the previous record-setting quarter, but the 13,204 who landed between October and December represented 18.4% of all immigrants to Canada. This was the highest share on record.

The province has consistently captured double-digit shares of Canada's immigrants since 2009 and this trend shows no sign of slowing. Alberta has even been attracting a larger number of immigrants than provinces that have traditionally been destinations of choice; the fourth quarter marks the eighth in a row that Alberta has attracted a larger number of immigrants than British Columbia.

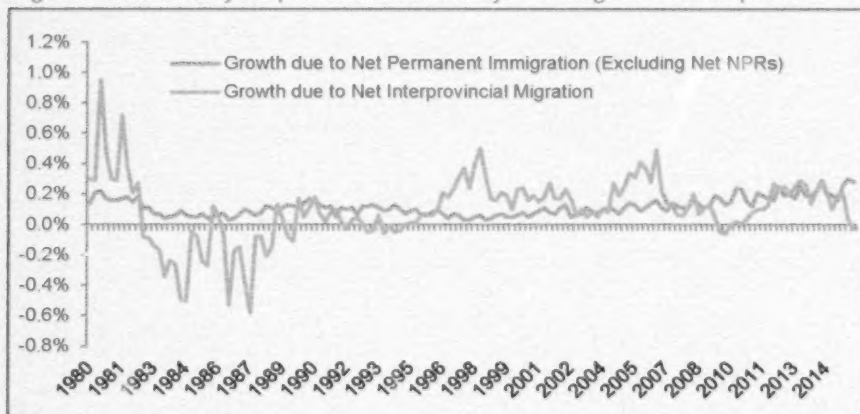
Permanent immigration (net international migration excluding NPRs) has played a much more significant role in the booming population growth in recent years. Since early 2012, growth from this source has closely matched, or exceeded, that from net interprovincial sources for the first time on record. Over the five year period from 2011 to 2015, growth from net permanent immigration averaged about 0.20% and has remained extremely high, even as growth from interprovincial sources has slumped over the last two quarters (Figure 2).

Net NPR outflows continue to drag on net international gains, with Alberta losing 3,360 NPRs in the quarter, marking the fifth quarter in a row of outflows. Although this loss is substantial, it is about half of the same quarter last year (Table 4). As of January 1, Alberta's stock of NPRs is still very high at around 93,000.

Natural increase

Alberta grew by 7,509 people during the fourth quarter of 2015 due to natural increase. This is a result of 13,722 births minus 6,213 deaths. The province continues to have the highest natural growth rate of all the provinces (0.18%). Natural increase continues to be an important driver of Alberta's population growth.

Figure 2: Quarterly Population Growth by Net Migration Component



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Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta October 1 to December 31, 2015

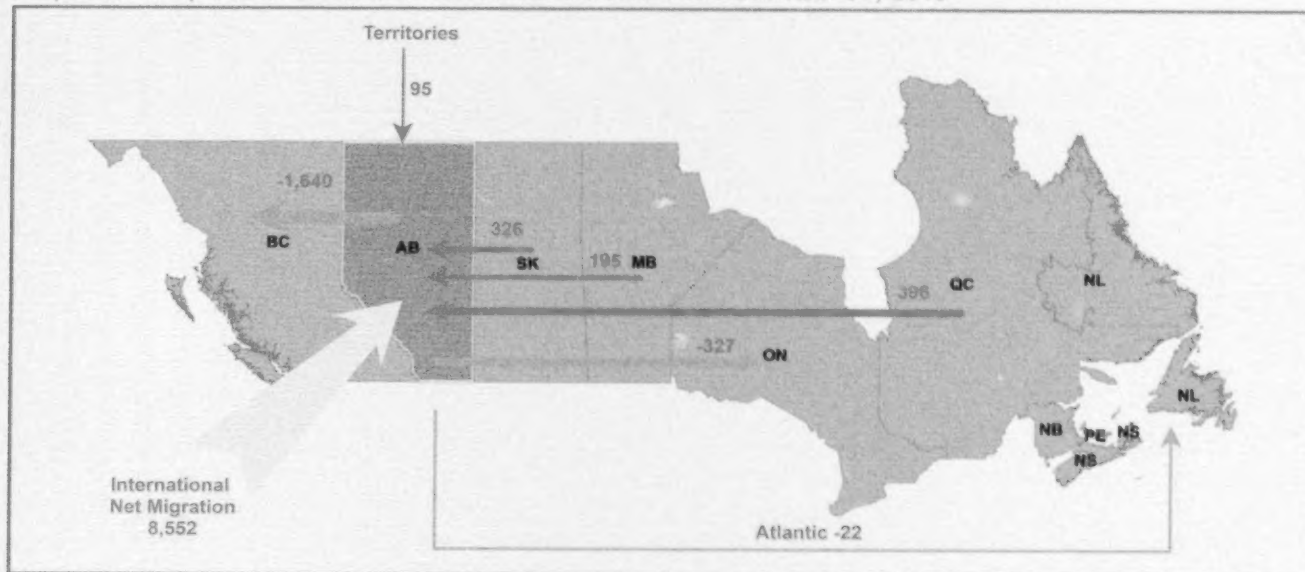


Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants October 1 to December 31, 2015

Origin	Destination													
		NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
	NL	0	7	209	70	42	298	6	39	386	72	0	5	19
	PEI	10	0	90	20	11	199	5	25	143	143	0	0	0
	NS	164	57	0	433	87	780	71	17	565	205	0	25	0
	NB	55	53	431	0	222	458	41	25	404	189	5	19	0
	QC	26	19	138	220	0	3,180	79	23	935	672	16	0	65
	ON	310	202	762	443	1,836	0	684	551	2,843	2,916	31	42	77
	MB	20	9	34	11	60	768	0	454	735	774	0	5	10
	SK	12	0	50	35	97	575	216	0	1,699	793	17	15	0
	AB	396	87	599	438	539	3,170	540	1,373	0	4,954	40	111	0
	BC	126	36	216	126	338	2,001	347	522	3,314	0	16	86	20
	YT	0	0	11	20	6	63	0	0	30	129	0	13	0
	NWT	0	0	25	25	11	60	6	52	202	47	23	0	0
NVT	6	0	26	0	34	96	3	0	14	16	9	25	0	
	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT	
IN	1,125	470	2,591	1,841	3,283	11,648	1,998	3,081	11,270	10,910	157	346	191	
OUT	1,153	646	2,404	1,902	5,373	10,697	2,880	3,509	12,247	7,148	272	451	229	
NET	-28	-176	187	-61	-2,090	951	-882	-428	-977	3,762	-115	-105	-38	
Q4 2015	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT	
Outflow to AB	386	143	565	404	935	2843	735	1699	0	3314	30	202	14	
Inflow from AB	396	87	599	438	539	3170	540	1373	0	4954	40	111	0	
Net Flow to AB	-10	56	-34	-34	396	-327	195	326	0	-1,640	-10	91	14	

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2011-12													
Jul-Sep	22,147	18,189	3,958	8,970	2,665	3,005	675	1,840	9,795	13,753	13,404	5,117	22,040
Oct-Dec	15,797	10,901	4,896	7,690	21	1,613	549	800	6,349	11,245	12,223	5,358	18,110
Jan-Mar	22,632	12,201	10,431	7,520	2,568	1,554	531	792	8,795	19,226	12,737	5,711	26,252
Apr-Jun	26,008	17,641	8,367	10,386	5,421	1,689	531	1,444	15,031	23,398	13,866	5,305	31,959
Total	86,584	58,932	27,652	34,566	10,675	7,861	2,286	4,876	39,970	67,622	52,230	21,491	98,361
2012-13													
Jul-Sep	25,552	15,767	9,785	9,086	3,720	2,823	663	1,953	11,273	21,058	13,851	5,320	29,589
Oct-Dec	15,730	8,026	7,704	9,103	-1,321	1,476	532	740	6,514	14,218	12,653	5,575	21,296
Jan-Mar	21,438	11,692	9,746	8,095	5,860	1,537	545	703	12,576	22,322	13,182	5,941	29,563
Apr-Jun	29,833	18,470	11,363	10,582	8,803	1,657	545	1,351	18,534	29,897	14,368	5,517	38,748
Total	92,553	53,955	38,598	36,866	17,062	7,493	2,285	4,747	48,897	87,495	54,054	22,353	119,196
2013-2014													
Jul-Sep	25,511	15,277	10,234	9,156	6,166	2,853	663	1,953	13,759	23,993	14,373	5,536	32,830
Oct-Dec	16,387	10,900	5,487	8,806	846	1,492	532	740	8,368	13,855	13,138	5,797	21,196
Jan-Mar	22,290	13,522	8,768	10,351	1,434	1,554	545	703	10,389	19,157	13,676	6,173	26,660
Apr-Jun	31,613	20,720	10,893	12,753	522	1,675	545	1,351	12,406	23,299	14,891	5,727	32,463
Total	95,801	60,419	35,382	41,066	8,968	7,574	2,285	4,747	44,922	80,304	56,078	23,233	113,149
2014-2015													
Jul-Sep	23,192	15,055	8,137	10,283	172	2,869	662	1,953	8,877	17,014	14,874	5,745	26,143
Oct-Dec	15,269	11,031	4,238	9,150	-7,032	1,500	532	740	826	5,064	13,538	6,012	12,590
Jan-Mar	23,944	15,662	8,282	8,197	-6,644	1,564	545	703	147	8,429	14,046	6,404	16,071
Apr-Jun	31,293	23,029	8,264	11,799	-7,711	1,686	545	1,351	3,208	11,472	15,219	5,935	20,756
Total	93,698	64,777	28,921	39,429	-21,215	7,619	2,284	4,747	13,058	41,979	57,677	24,096	75,560
2015-2016													
Jul-Sep	21,225	19,991	1,234	13,982	-2,406	2,869	662	1,953	9,998	11,232	15,128	5,942	20,418
Oct-Dec	11,270	12,247	-977	13,204	-3,360	1,500	532	740	8,552	7,575	13,722	6,213	15,084
Jan-Mar	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Apr-Jun	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	32,495	32,238	257	27,186	-5,766	4,369	1,194	2,693	18,550	18,807	28,850	12,155	35,502